



environmental spotlight

Before You Strike That Match ...

... Make sure you don't "impair the air". While some communities around Michigan allow burning of household waste or yard waste, the DEQ discourages residents from opting to burn as it can generate unhealthy air pollution.

Burn barrels produce low temperature fires that generate toxic substances such as mercury, dioxins, benzene, and PCBs. Those chemicals are then released into the air you and your neighbors breathe, while ash residue and deposited contaminants end up in the soil.

Instead, recycling, mulching, and composting are simple and environmentally sound ways to manage most household and yard waste, and can be as easy as mowing over leaves with a lawnmower to chop them into fine mulch where it will provide a number of needed nutrients for the grass.

Many communities also offer municipal composting and curbside recycling programs, and you can contact your waste hauler or local city, township, or county Department of Public Works office to find out the options available to you.



The only material to consider burning is well-seasoned wood fuel in an EPA certified woodstove/fireplace insert. These units use secondary combustion to more completely incinerate harmful gases and particles.

More open burning and wood burning information is available under Spotlight at www.michigan.gov/deqair.

